



# State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

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## STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Wednesday, August 16, 2006**

The Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, August 16, 2006, at the Claiborne Building Conference Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 1-153 Iowa Room, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Committee Chair Michael Abbiatti called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The roll was called by Ms. Diane Didier, Support Staff for the Committee, and a quorum was established.

### **Committee Members Present:**

Michael Abbiatti (Chair)

Rizwan Ahmed (Vice-Chair)

Chief Robert Black  
Lt. Colonel Joseph Booth  
Arnold Chauviere  
Joe Drago  
Norman Ferachi  
Richard Gremillion

Heywood Jeffers

Colonel Ron Johnson  
Curry Johnson

Lt. Colonel Robert Morris  
Camille Perry  
Pat Potier  
Susan Severance  
Colonel Eric Sivula  
Lt. Colonel Brian Spillman  
Colonel Henry Whitehorn

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Sheriff Ricky Edwards  
Representative Daniel Martiny

### **Representing Agency:**

LA Broadband Advisory Council/  
LA Board of Regents  
Division of Administration &  
Office of Information Technology  
LA Fire Chief's Association  
LA State Police  
LA Public Service Commission  
Dept. of Transportation/Development  
Police Chief's Association  
Regional Parish Homeland Security &  
Emergency Preparedness Directors  
Committee  
LA Senate Select Committee on  
Homeland Security  
LA National Guard  
LA House of Representatives Special  
Committee on LA Homeland Security  
LA National Guard  
LA State Senate Judiciary B Committee  
Dept. of Health & Hospitals  
GOHSEP  
Dept. of Public Safety/Corrections Services  
Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries  
LA State Police

### **Representing Agency:**

LA Sheriff's Association  
LA House of Representatives Committee  
On Administration of Criminal Justice

**State/Parish Agency Representatives Present:**

James Anderson	Region 4 Iberia OHSEP
Eric Deroche	Region 3 Assumption/St. James OHSEP
Colonel Kenneth Hughes	Region 1 Plaquemines OHSEP
Corporal Michael Murphy	Region 2 Baton Rouge OHSEP
Gary Peters	Region 8 Ouachita OHSEP
Michael Ranatza	LA Commission on Law Enforcement
Tommy Thiebaud	Region 9 Washington OHSEP

**Support Staff Present:**

Diane Didier (LA Board of Regents)

**Guest List  
See Appendix**

**III. Approval of the Minutes of August 2, 2006**

Mr. Michael Abbiatti, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the August 2, 2006 minutes.

Lt. Colonel Joseph Booth requested to amend the minutes on page 5, under Old Business, motion to read:

***On motion of Sheriff Ricky Edwards, seconded by Chief Freddie Drennan,*** the Committee voted unanimously to accept the recommendation to appoint the State Interoperable Communications System Executive Committee as the governing authority over the State of Louisiana P25 700 MHz radio system, placing the day-to-day operation and maintenance of this system with the Louisiana State Police Radio Communications. In addition, request that the Governor's office increase the budget and staffing of the Louisiana State Police Radio Communications to support the additional work load for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the State of Louisiana P25 700 MHz communication system.

**On motion of Chief Robert Black, seconded by Colonel Kenneth Hughes,** the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of August 2, 2006.

#### **IV. Special Presentations**

Mr. Abbiatti asked Mr. Rizwan Ahmed to introduce Ms. Mary Fran Coffey, Innovative Solutions International for today's demonstration, Global Personnel Recovery System (GPRS). The Committee adjourned to the Claiborne Building Conference Center, Colorado Room, for the demo at 1:42 p.m.

After the demo the Committee members broke out in assigned sub-committees.

#### **V. Sub-Committee Progress Reports**

The Committee members returned to full meeting at 3:34 p.m. Reports were given from the four (4) sub-committees.

Mr. Abbiatti called the full meeting back to order. He then asked for the report from Lt. Colonel Joseph Booth regarding the Assessment Survey. Lt. Colonel Booth handed out two (2) reports: 1) report by region, and 2) report by categories and regions. He then reported that there are only fifty-four (54) responses that need to be adjusted as soon as possible. He then encouraged Committee members for assistance in getting responses submitted – target date is past due. Mr. Abbiatti asked if there were any action at this time to receive the data needed for the Assessment Survey. Mr. Eric Deroche mentioned from the last meeting that there was discussion to meet with the Region coordinators from each Parish and brief them on the SIEC, Assessment Survey, and the number of radio users and devices they need. After further discussion, Mr. Abbiatti recommended that the Committee come up with a strategy to receive the data needed to move forward to request funds from the Governor's Office for the next meeting.

Mr. Abbiatti asked Chief Robert Black for the Technology Report. Chief Black reported that they discussed the Assessment Survey and to prepare a white paper solution. The following recommendations were made: 1) implement the same radio system; 2) provide first responders with additional communications systems; and 3) prepare a statewide strategic plan with recommendations/solutions for a Central Command Center. Mr. Abbiatti advised that they create a strategy document. Chief Black suggested they do that

at an all-day meeting/workshop to accomplish creating the strategy document. They also addressed Sheriff Edward's questions regarding radio systems from the sixty-four (64) Parishes from the last SIEC meeting. Corporal Michael Murphy suggested contacting a nationally funded organization to assist with the all-day strategy workshop. After further discussion, Mr. Abbiatti commented on the Summit Planning Committee. He reported that the Governor's Office requested that the 2007 Summit be held in New Orleans. He mentioned that at the 10:00 a.m. Summit Planning Committee meeting, they selected three (3) 2007 Summit dates: January 31/February 1, February 7/8, and March 7/8. Ms. Diane Didier, Lt. Polly Snell, and Ms. Daphne Levenson are working on three (3) choices for hotels at which to hold the Summit. Corporal Murphy provided the Committee with copies of the 2006 National Interoperability Summit, U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (SAFECON Program), in Austin, TX, May 24-25, 2006. Mr. Abbiatti recommended that the Committee create an MOU for Mississippi and Alabama who are also invited to participate in the Gulf Coast Interoperability Summit and asked for volunteers to assist with the 2007 Summit Planning Committee.

Mr. Abbiatti gave his report on the Funding and Finance Sub-Committee. He reported that the next meeting, Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, is the deadline for preparing the Legislative packet. Mr. Abbiatti is continuing discussions with the Governor's Office and General Hunt Downer about the Legislative packet to sustain funding for the SIEC. He also stated that he has addressed the issues of staffing -- six staff members, two (2) administrators and four (4) technical staff members -- for the SIEC to the Governor's Office.

Mr. Abbiatti asked for the Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee report from Ms. Susan Severance. She reported that Mississippi recently passed a statute recently that requires any new purchases in the communications realm and suggested that the group move forward with similar legislation to establish a Louisiana State policy.

## VI. Old Business

Lt. Colonel Booth mentioned they received a letter from the Houma Police Department requesting that joining the SIEC be considered at the next meeting.

Mr. Dick Gremillion, on behalf of Sheriff Ricky Edwards and in response to questions asked at the last meeting, recommended that Motorola do a briefing on the radio systems. Mr. Abbiatti responded that Motorola representatives will do the briefing at the next SIEC meeting.

Mr. Deroche requested a status report from the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Policy and Procedures Sub-committee Report, the SIEC Executive Order, **SECTION 5: A.3. One (1) chief of police representing each parish of the state of Louisiana selected by the chiefs of police within each parish, and A 4. One (1) fire chief representing each parish of the state of Louisiana selected by the fire chiefs within each municipality within each parish;** change the language of both to add - ***or designee***. Ms. Severance stated that she will look at the Executive Order for the purpose of changing the language.

Chief Black thanked the SIEC for its presentation at the Louisiana State Firemen's Association Conference in New Orleans on Friday, August 11th.

Mr. Abbiatti commented that he sent a letter to the SIEC listserv for review. The letter was to Mr. Domingo Herraiz, Director for the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, regarding a partnership with the SIEC and Mr. Herraiz's organization.

## VII. New Business

Colonel Eric Sivula inquired about the re-banding issue. Lt. Colonel Booth offered to do a briefing on re-banding at the next SIEC meeting.

Chief Black commented on the collaboration with Louisiana National Guard efforts. Colonel Ron Johnson invited the SIEC to a National Guard Strategic Planning session on communications on Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**VIII. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

**IX. Adjournment**

In the absence of further business, Chair Mr. Abbiatti adjourned the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee meeting at 4:26 p.m.

**APPENDIX  
GUEST LIST  
August 16, 2006**

**NAME**

Francis Hymel  
Rodney Hoyt  
Clay Henry  
Will Paulson  
Richard Silverman  
Donnie Marks  
Robert Hale  
Christina Dayires  
Polly Snell  
Daphne Levenson

**AFFILIATION**

St. James OEP  
Livingston OEP  
Acadian Ambulance  
LA Public Safety/Corrections  
DEQ  
CPSC  
LSU Police  
LA State Police  
GSRCP  
BSRCPI